



Victorian Council for Civil Liberties Inc  
Reg No: A0026497L  
GPO Box 3161  
Melbourne, VIC 3001  
t 03 9670 6422  
info@libertyvictoria.org.au

PRESIDENT  
Jessie E Taylor

SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT  
Jamie Gardiner

VICE-PRESIDENTS  
Thomas Kane  
Julia Kretzenbacher

TREASURER  
Michelle Bennett

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
George Georgiou SC

PATRON  
The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG

libertyvictoria.org.au

17 December 2018

Open Government Partnership Australia  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
1 National Circuit  
Barton ACT 2600

Email: OGP@pmc.gov.au

## **Introduction**

1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission in response to the report released by the Open Government Partnership: Australia's draft End of Term Self Assessment Report.
2. Liberty Victoria is one of Australia's leading human rights and civil liberties organisations. It is concerned with the protection and promotion of civil liberties throughout Australia. As such, Liberty Victoria is actively involved in the development and revision of Australia's laws and systems of government. More information on our organisation and activities can be found at: <https://libertyvictoria.org.au/>.

## **Comments on the Report**

3. The First Open Government Action Plan (OGAP) has been a very limited success - as the Plan and process are not public knowledge. We would submit that a website is not of itself a campaign of openness.

4. Discussion with members of the civil service show some awareness of the process, but our impression is that very few members of the public are aware of it. Even if you ask members of highly engaged civil society, unless they are concerned with very specific topics related to the OGAP, they have not heard of it.
5. Recently 'elections' or 'nominations' occurred for senior participation in the next OGP, but there has been no announcement of who was unsuccessful. Nominees who were successful have been notified.
6. If the Government and the Secretariat are confident and willing to stand by the Plan, the process and the preparations for 2018-2020, then some level of public information, support and activity should be apparent.
7. Liberty Victoria supports the principles of open government, accountable and transparent process that the Open Government Partnership (OGP) represents - but the 2016-2018 First Plan has not publicly engaged with those principles. Civil servants working to improve internal deliverables is a step, but unless the public is aware and engaged the real goal of OGP will remain unfulfilled.

## **Conclusion**

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission. If you have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This is a public submission and is not confidential.



Jessie Taylor  
President, Liberty Victoria